

OceaniaHR

A Grassroots NGO Movement
For the Promotion & Protection of
Global Human Rights in the Pacific

OceaniaHR is pleased to participate in the UN Human Rights Council Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review. It is in this historic session that the human rights situation in Oceania – the liquid continent – is being part of the global dialogue in this new body.

We are pleased to participate and look forward to further creative collaboration to ensure the effective promotion and protection of human rights in the Pacific.

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Australia: Sorry is a Start Along with Reversal of Position on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; However, Implementation and Realization of Rights Necessary for Aboriginals Now

1.

Issue: The Australia government has been an important participant in the UN human rights treaty bodies. Australia has ratified and engaged with seven of the core human rights covenants and conventions by submitting reports and sharing results with the experts of the committees. However, there are a couple of protocols and a convention of the International Labor Organization

Question: Will Australia ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as well as the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture? What steps will Australia take to ratify the International Labor Organization 169 convention?

Recommendation: Australia immediately ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as well as the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture. Australia should also work in partnership with indigenous peoples of Australia to ratify the ILO Convention 169.

2.

Issue: The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is an important instrument to guarantee the fundamental freedoms and human rights of indigenous peoples. Australia took an important step in reversing its position to adopt the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Question: Will Australia exercise the principles of the UN DRIP and work in partnership with its Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders peoples to develop a national implementation strategy plan to implement the articles of the UNDRIP? Please describe how it will meet this important initiative?

Recommendation: Australia should immediately create and coordinate a national implementation strategy plan to realize the human rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders recognized in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

3,

Issue: The recent legislation regarding the Northern Territories is fundamentally racist and a violation of international human rights law.

Question: What steps are going to be taken to reverse the Northern Territories Act and also draft legislation to protect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples from further acts against the original inhabitants?

Recommendation: Australia adopt legislation that respects the human rights of the Aboriginal peoples in the Northern Territories. Also apologizes for the legislation that reflected practices of the past that created such violations already identified with the Stolen Generation.

4.

Issue: The climate change crisis is the most imminent issue. Australia pledged to be a leader in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Recently it has reversed this position.

Question: Will Australia be a positive partner to be a leader in the UN FCCC ? Will Australia immediately implement any legal obligations under the UNFCCC?

Recommendation: Australia be a leader in the Pacific and reverse its recent position. Australia must adopt the legal and binding treaty of the UN FCCC.